NRA MEMBER U.S. WE DO OUR PART

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Every addition to human knowledge is an addition to man power.
—Horace Mann.

WHOLE NO. 1207 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1934 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 24, NO. 22

Editorials

Labor and the Law

The inexcusable delays in securing the rights of labor by the medium of statute law—which in the last analysis means the medium of courts and judges—is once more emphasized in the refusal of Federal Judge John P. Nields of the United States District Court in Wilmington, Delaware, to issue the injunction petitioned for by the Government to restrain the Weirton Steel Company from violating the labor section of the National Industrial Recovery Act regarding the election of collective bargaining representatives by the employes of the company.

The Weirton case is a simple one. The Recovery Act prescribes that every code of fair competition established under it shall contain the guarantee that employes shall have the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and "shall be free from the interference, restraint, or coercion of employers of labor, or their agents, in the designation of such representatives." This guarantee is included in the code for the iron and steel industry, to which the Weirton Steel Company is a party.

Officers of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers charged that company officials were interfering with the election of representatives. The National Labor Board sustained the charge and ordered an election held under the auspices of the Board. Company officials interfered with this proposed election to such an extent that it was not held. The Board thereupon turned the matter over to the Department of Justice for appropriate action.

After a long delay the Justice Department petitioned Judge Nields to issue a temporary injunction restraining the company from interfering with the election of collecive bargaining representatives guaranteed by the Recovery Act. Counsel for the Government and the company argued the case for a week before Judge Nields in March. Now comes Judge Nield's decision denying the injunction. He declares that the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction law prohibits a Federal judge from issuing an injunction in a labor dispute without a hearing of witnesses in open court, that the Weirton case is a labor dispute, and that he is therefore prohibited by the anti-injunction law from issuing the injunction. This means that there will have to be a new hearing or trial before Judge Nields, with witnesses for the Government and the steel company present to give their testimony in person and submit to cross-examination.

Inasmuch as the District Court's docket is crowded and the vacation season for judges will soon be at hand, it will probably be September or October before the case is retried. The side which suffers an adverse decision will appeal to the United States Supreme Court, which normally means additional months of delay. Competent lawyers familiar with similar cases predict that it will be a year and a half from the time the Weirton Steel Company committed the alleged violation before the Supreme Court decides the controversy. In the meantime, subversive employers throughout the United States are using this contested case as justification for wholesale flouting of Section 7-A, which friends of labor believed would be a charter of liberty for working men and women.

There is just one adequate answer to inexcusable delays of this sort in determining labor's rights by statute laws and court decisions. That answer is, the development of effective trade unions in every industry thoroughly equipped with a knowledge of the economic rights of working men and women and strong enough to enforce those rights by the mobilization of labor's economic power without waiting for legislative enactments or court decrees.

Fictitious NRA Minimum Wages

The fiction of minimum wages under NRA codes of fair competition is completely exploded by the controversy over curtailment of production ordered for the cotton textile industry by the National Recovery Administration, which resulted in a strike threat being issued by the United Textile Workers of America.

The cotton textile code prescribes $13 for a 40-hour week as the minimum wage in the North and $12 in the South. People in general understood that these were real minimum wages below which Tory employers, despite their greed, could not drive the weekly earnings of thousands of textile workers who do practically all the useful work in the manufacture of cotton goods. The NRA order dispelled this illusion and imposed a 25 per cent wage cut.

The circumstances under which the minimum wage bubble went to pieces are instructive. From the inauguration of the maximum 40-hour week, the unpatriotic low-wage and high-profit capitalists who control the cotton textile industry installed "stretch-out" and other speed-up systems by which the output of the workers was largely increased solely for the benefit of employers and their financial backers. The mill owners concluded that this increased output under the 40-hour week would result in the production of more goods than the present buying power of consumers could absorb. Therefore the Cotton Textile Code Authority, which administers the code, demanded from the National Recovery Administration an order for a 25 per cent curtailment of production. This meant a reduction of 10 hours in the maximum work week, bringing it down to 30 hours, with the manufacturers insisting that the minimum weekly wages should be correspondingly cut from $12 to $9 in the South, from $13 to $9.75 in the North, and similar reductions in the weekly wages of semi-skilled and skilled workers.

The officials of the United Textile Workers protested against the pay cut. But the NRA sided with the manufacturers and ordered the curtailment, with the employes standing all the injuries and the textile barons grabbing all the benefits.

This reduction in the already inadequate wages of thousands of textile workers is essentially unjust and a denial of the demand for shorter hours accompanied by wage increases voiced by President Roosevelt in his address before the national conference of code authorities a few weeks ago. It exemplifies the criticism made by the American Federation of Labor that recently there has been a decided tendency to turn the codes of fair competition into an institution largely consecrated to forwarding the interests of the coupon clippers and dividend receivers to the detriment of the employes, without whose work in transforming raw materials into commodities the securities vested in the stockholders and bond owners would not be worth the paper on which they are printed.

WAGNER LABOR BILL REPORTED TO SENATE

Revised Text Affirms Workers' Right to Organize, Prohibits Employers from Using "Unfair Practices" to Nullify This Right, and Creates National Board to Enforce the Measure.

(Reprinted from A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Special Release of May 28, 1934)

Washington.—The revised Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, reported favorably to the Senate by the Committee on Education and Labor, is a complete rewrite of the original bill. While the revised text contains much of the substance of the old bill, the language in many instances is sharply modified by making definitions more specific and limited.

As reported by the committee the measure provides for the establishment of a National Industrial Adjustment Board of five members, three of whom, representing the "public," are appointed by the President, and two, one representing labor and one business, are selected by the chairman of the Board from panels appointed by the President. The bill legislates out of existence the present National Labor Board.

Freedom of Association

The principal work of the Adjustment Board will be to make effective the rights of labor as set forth in the declaration of policy, which says:

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States to remove unnecessary obstructions to the free flow of commerce, to encourage the establishment of uniform labor standards and to provide for the general welfare by establishing agencies for the peaceful settlement of labor disputes, and by protecting the exercise by the worker of complete freedom of association, self-organization, and designation of representatives of his own choosing for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions of his employment or other mutual aid or protection."

Unfair Labor Practices

The rights of labor set forth in the declaration of policy have been and are largely destroyed by certain schemes of anti-union employers which are described as "unfair labor practices." These practices the Adjustment Board is empowered to prevent. Upon receiving notice from the Secretary of Labor that an employer is engaging in an unfair labor practice the Board acts as a trial court, its findings being subject to appeal to any Federal Circuit Court of Appeals and to the United States Supreme Court.

Coercion of Employes Banned

The bill lists the following unfair labor practices:

"It shall be an unfair labor practice:

"(1) For an employer to attempt, by interference or coercion, to impair the exercise of employes of the right to form or join labor organizations, to designate representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection.

Protects Employers

"(2) For employes to attempt, by interference or coercion, to impair the exercise by employers of the right to join or form employer organizations and to designate representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of collective bargaining.

Interference With Unions Prohibited

"(3) For an employer to interfere with or dominate the administration of any labor organiztion or contribute financial support to it: Provided, That, subject to rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor, an employer shall not be prohibited from permitting an employe, individually, or local representatives of employes, from conferring among themselves or with management during working hours without loss of time while engaged in the business of a labor organization.

Union Shop Legalized

"(4) For an employer by discrimination in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of employment, or by contract or agreement, to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization: Provided, That nothing in this act, or in the National Industrial Recovery Act, or in any code or agreement approved thereunder, or in any other statute of the United States, shall preclude an employer from making an agreement with a labor organization (not established, maintained, or controlled by any unfair labor practice) to the effect that a person seeking employment shall be required, as a condition of employment, to join such labor organization, if the agreement is sought by a majority of employes in the unit covered by it when made. Nothing in this proviso shall be construed by the board to indicate that any employer is bound to enter into an agreement conditioning employment upon membership in any labor organization."

W. B. WILSON, LABOR LEADER, DIES AT 72

First Secretary of Labor Had Been Ill Several Months—Was Member of Congress for Six Years and Secretary of United Mine Workers, 1900 to 1908.

(Reprinted from A. F. of L. Weekly News Service Special Release of May 28, 1934)

Washington.—The capital of the Nation was shocked at the sudden death of William B. Wilson, first Secretary of Labor, who passed away aboard a train en route from Miami, Florida to this city. At the time of his death, his daughter, Mrs. Mary E. Stroehker, was with him. Although his friends knew he had been ill for a number of months, it was hoped he would live for many years.

In Washington the train was met by Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, officers of the United Mine Workers of America and other labor leaders. The body was removed to the W. J. Chambers Funeral Home, where it lay in state during Sunday. A large number of persons in public and private life, including many trade union officers and members, passed by the bier in their last tribute to one of the outstanding figures not only in the American labor movement, but also in the public affairs of the State of Pennsylvania and the Nation. Sunday evening the body was taken to Blossburg, Pa., for the funeral services.

Six Years in Congress

Mr. Wilson was elected to the Federal House of Representatives from the Fifteenth Pennsylvania district in 1906, and served continuously in that body until March 3, 1913, when he was appointed first Secretary of the Department of Labor by President Wilson and administered that office until March 5, 1921.

Promoted Labor Legislation

As chairman of the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives during the sixty-second Congress he was largely responsible for the establishment of the Department of Labor, the Children's Bureau and the Bureau of Mines.

To him also goes much of the credit for piloting the La Follette Seamen's Bill, designed to improve the conditions of the American sailors, through the House of Representatives and for the enactment of the eight-hour law for Federal employes. He also contributed much effort to legislation designed to improve the immigration laws.

Favored Vocational Education

Mr. Wilson and former Senator Page of Vermont were the joint authors of the bill providing for Federal assistance to vocational education. He served as a member of the Federal Board for Vocational Education from 1914 to 1921, being chairman of the board in 1920 and 1921.

During the World War Mr. Wilson was in charge of matters affecting labor and was appointed a member of the Council of National Defense in 1916. He rendered valuable assistance in the settlement of the coal strike in 1919.

He also served for one year as a member of the International Joint Commission created to prevent disputes regarding the use of boundary waters between the United States and Canada.

After his retirement from public office in 1921 he continued to take deep interest in the mine workers, acting as arbitrator in the Illinois mine fields for several years.

Born in Scotland

Mr. Wilson was born in Blantyre, Scotland, in 1862, and emigrated to the United States with his parents, who settled in Arnot, Tioga County, Pennsylvania, in 1870.

The Wilson family had been miners for many years. Mr. Wilson's first recollection of the hardships of miners' lives was the eviction of his father from a company house a few months before the family left Scotland for America.

Miners' Union Officer at Sixteen

He received his education in the public schools of Pennsylvania and commenced working in the mines at Arnot in 1871. Two years later he joined the Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association as half a member. In 1877, when but sixteen years of age, he was elected Secretary of the Miners' Union at Arnot. He joined the Knights of Labor in 1879, the early unions of coal miners being assemblies of that organization.

Secretary of United Mine Workers

He was a delegate to the joint convention held in Columbus, Ohio, in 1890, which merged the National Trades Assembly of the Knights of Labor and the National Progressive Union into the United Mine Workers of America.

In 1900, Mr. Wilson was chosen by John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers, as secretary-treasurer to fill the unexpired term of W. C. Pierce, and was elected to succeed himself by every convention from 1900 to 1908.

In Pennsylvania he helped revise and codify and make more effective the State mining laws.

NEW WAGNER BILL SETS UP 5-MEMBER DISPUTES BODY

Washington.—The new Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, provides for a National Industrial Adjustment Board of five members in the Department of Labor.

Three "General Public" Members

Three members, purported to represent the "general public," would be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Senate. The President is also authorized to name the chairman of the board. One member would be appointed for one year, one for three years and one for five years, with the proviso that their successors shall be appointed for five years.

A salary of $10,000 per year is stipulated for each of the "general public" members, who are prohibited from engaging in any other "business, vocation, or employment."

Two Labor and Business Members

The bill also provides for one labor and one business member, bringing the board membership to five. In providing a method for choosing these business and labor members, the bill treads on new ground. It says:

"The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint for terms of one year each six individuals as a panel to represent employers and six individuals as a panel to represent employes. In making such appointments the President may consult organized representatives of employers and employes.

Board Chairman Makes Appointments

"The chairman of the board shall from time to time select individuals from these panels to serve as members of the board, and shall fix and rotate their periods of service in such manner that (1) there shall always be one representative of employers and one representative of employes upon the board, and (2) all of the individuals on the panels shall, in so far as practicable, serve as members of the board for approximately the same length of time.

"Members of the board who are selected from the panels shall each receive $20 per diem and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses when engaged in the performance of their duties.

Three Constitute Quorum

"Three members of the board, including one member representing the general public, shall constitute a quorum. A vacancy in the board shall not impair the right of the remaining members to exercise all the powers of the board. The board shall have an official seal which shall be judicially noticed."

ROOSEVELT SEEKS WORKERS' ELECTIONS IN STEEL MILLS

Washington.—In signing the revised code of fair competition for the iron and steel industry, President Roosevelt said he would undertake to provide for the election by employes of representatives of their own choosing for collective bargaining negotiations with employers. He said:

"In order to insure the free exercise of the rights of employes under the provisions of Section 7 of this act and of Article IV of this code, I will undertake promptly to provide, as the occasion may demand, for the election by employes in each industrial unit of representatives of their own choosing for the purpose of collective bargaining and other mutual aid and protection, under the supervision of an appropriate governmental agency and in accordance with suitable rules and regulations."

In view of the fact that the President by an executive order issued some months go specifically empowered the National Labor Board to supervise such an election by the employes of the Weirton Steel Company, which was successfully resisted by that company supported by the Iron and Steel Code Authority, and backed up by the refusal of Federal Judge Nields to issue an injunction restraining the company from its subversive policy, students of the situation are wondering what policy the President will pursue to impose his will on the Tory magnates of the steel industry.

LEWIS REPRESENTS U. S. AT GENEVA LABOR PARLEY

Washington.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, was appointed by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins to represent the Department at the eighteenth session of the International Labor Conference, which opens at Geneva, Switzerland, during the first week in June. One of the major matters for consideration by the conference is the question of remedies for unemployment which afflicts every industrial country in the world.

MEXICAN UNIONS STRIKE

Mexico, D. F.—All organizations belonging to the Labor Chamber of the State of Tamaulipas gave legal notice that will result in ten days in cessation of work by their entire membership in sympathy with the strike in the Isthmus of Tehuantepeca against the Aguila Oil Company, a British concern.

Roosevelt's Notable Achievements Under New Deal Praised by Green

Government Intervention in Industrial Affairs Held Constitutional in Emergency Caused by the Prolonged Depression.

On May 27, in the City Auditorium of Atlanta, Ga., President Thornwell Jacobs of Oglethorpe University conferred the Degree of Doctor of Public Service upon William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor. In 1932 the University conferred the Degree of Doctor of Laws upon President Roosevelt, who was then Governor of New York. In accepting the degree, Mr. Green paid the following tribute to President Roosevelt's achievements under the Recovery Program.

By WILLIAM GREEN
President, American Federation of Labor

You have conferred a very great honor upon me and I accept it with feelings of sincere appreciation. Only one whose lot in life was cast as mine has been can truly comprehend its complete meaning and deep significance to me. I assure you that I shall always treasure within my memory the fondest recollections of the happy experiences of yesterday and today.

On just such an occasion as this, in 1932, a distinguished American citizen was granted the Degree of Doctor of Laws by Oglethorpe University. His words of wisdom and counsel made a deep impression upon those who were in the assembly at that time but today they have a deeper significance because of the exalted position which he now occupies as guardian and protector of the welfare of the people of our Nation.

"New Deal" Philosophy

Sensing the perilous position into which our country was speedily drifting, Mr. Roosevelt proclaimed the doctrine of "The New Deal." This economic policy was based upon the philosophy of a greater and more equitable distribution of the national income and the development of a cooperative relationship between government, industrial ownership and labor.

In less than a year's time, this man was called upon by the people of the United States to assume national leadership, to make vital and real the principles he had publicly proclaimed and to carry into execution the mandate given him by the sovereign will of the electorate of the Nation. Fate ordained that Oglethorpe University should be the setting and inspiration for a message which, in the light of historic events, proved to be a prophecy.

Extension of Government Activities

Profound economic changes have taken place.

Foremost among them must be listed the broadened and extended activities of the Government in industrial, financial and civic affairs, the creation and use of emergency powers, the development of credit facilities which hitherto had been considered a function of private institutions, the abandonment of the gold standard and the proposed increase of the use of silver as a part of the nation's metallic reserve for currency circulation, stupendous relief measures based upon public works projects, homestead and housing plans, the establishment of minimum rates of pay and maximum hours of employment through the adoption of industrial codes of fair practice.

Social Justice Policy

All of this has been supplemented by the formation and furtherance of a modern social justice policy which includes old age pensions, unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation and child labor legislation. There are many other changes, involving methods and limitations of production in industry and agriculture, changes in transportation, communication and education, which call for a revision of our economic thinking and determination.

Economic Progress and Human Welfare

Science, invention and technical skill have made a distinct contribution toward these social and economic developments. Our future task is to apply the benefits to the social and industrial life of the Nation in such a way as to promote human welfare and human happiness. We must utilize all the elements of mechanical and economic progress as the means through which all may enjoy the blessings of a more abundant life. It will be a reflection upon our ability to establish and maintain a just and equitable social order if we permit these changes so to oppress the individual and collective life of the people as to cause human suffering and widespread distress. Because of the grave social implications which arise out of extensive idleness and wide-spread unemployment we must diligently seek and find a correct solution of our unsolved economic problems.

Constitution Must Be Living Instrument

There are some in both private and public life who allege that much of the emergency legislation, with its enlargement of executve power, as authorized by Congress, is unconstitutional. If that be true what legislative remedy can sovereign citizens apply to the ills of unemployment?

It is inconceivable that the Constitution would stand as a barrier to human progress or serve as an impediment to those who sincerely seek to save the Nation from chaos and collapse. A constitution which would fail a Nation in a grave emergency would be unsuited to our growing and progressive population.

Our Constitution must never be a rigid, dead, immutable document but instead it must be a vital, living instrumentality, all-embracing in its adaptability to the changing economic situations which inevitably take place.

Broad Powers of Congress

The fact is that the Constitution of the United States confers upon Congress broad powers sufficient in scope and authority to legislate in the public interest during periods of national stress and economic disorder.

It has proven to be sufficiently flexible to meet the legislative needs of a small primitive agricultural population of 1780 as well as the needs of an indusrial, city-strewn nation of 1934.

Its virtue and its value are reflected in its flexibility and comprehension.

It is adaptable to the economic and social needs of yesterday, today and tomorrow. We revere it as a declaration of human rights and we regard it as sacred in character because of its imperishable guarantees of individual liberty and human freedom.

The amazing growth of industry and the expansion of industrial processes have tested the flexibility of this organic law. Under the fostering influence and the complete protection of the Constitution we have established our industrial supremacy throughout the world.

LABOR'S CONFIDENCE IN NRA WANES, GARMENT WORKERS' OFFICERS SAY

Chicago Convention Told That Subversive Employers Have Set Up Code Dictatorship Against Higher Wages and Shorter Hours and Are Conspiring to Nullify the Underlying Principles of the Recovery Act.

Chicago.—The National Recovery Administration was both strongly commended and vigorously criticized by the general executive board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in their report to the biennial convention of the union here.

The report stated that during the "honeymoon" period of the New Deal the NRA emphasized higher wages, increase of buying power of the working masses and jobs for the idle, but that later, under the persistent and unrelenting drive of strongly organized anti-union manufacturers in favor of low wages and long hours a number of NRA leaders changed front and inaugurated a labor policy in opposition to the underlying principles of the Recovery Act.

In discussing this changed policy the report said, in part:

Living Costs Cancel Wage Increases

"The expectation that the New Deal would supply employment to all the workers has not materialized because work hours were not cut in most industries substantially enough. Wages, it is true, were raised materially in a number of industries, but the rise in the cost of living has canceled materially the wage increases so that the purchasing power of the workers is today hardly above what it was a year ago. Instead of a 'partnership voice in industry,' as originally intended and practiced in the early stages of the NRA, Labor is now being accorded only more or less polite 'chance to be heard,' but the fixing of work hours and of wages is actually left to the employers only."

Workers Are Disappointed

"Doubtless, there is deep disappointment among the working masses of America with the new turn which the NRA and its administration and enforcement is taking," the report added. "The workers who greeted the NRA with so much faith and confidence last summer are looking with skepticism and misgivings at it now.

"The NRA originally meant to the workers reemployment, restoration of purchasing power through higher wages and eventual recovery of the badly dislocated economic condition of the country. It meant to be a mandatory law, not a mere voluntary obligation for employers to be adhered to at their choice.

Unions Urged As Enforcement Agency

"The deviation from its original purpose and failure of rigid enforcement and prosecution of defiant violators, is responsible for the lack of confidence with which the NRA is coming to be regarded by the laboring population of the country.

"Surely, it is clear by now that the NRA cannot be enforced by reliance on the employers. Either the force of the organized workers, as expressed through the policing power of their unions and backed by mobilized public opinion, or the rewriting of the Act by putting sharp teeth into it and making it a mandatory instrument for carrying out the original intent of the NRA, can restore confidence in it.

Employer Dictatorship Condemned

"If, however, the NRA is to be allowed to drift further away from its original purpose and the employers be permitted to be the sole arbiters with regard to work-hours and earnings in formulating codes and labor is to be denied voice and representation on the code authorities, it is quite evident that the faith of the workers in the Recovery Act will be completely lost before long and its usefulness as an instrumentality for national recovery will be nullified.

NRA Benefited Garment Workers

"Our Union enthusiastically supported the NRA from its inception, and we do not hesitate to admit that we have gained from it probably as few other labor unions did. We recognize that the National Recovery Act, though it has fallen short of many expectations, has been responsible for the reemployment of several million people; for the establishment of the 35-hour work-week in our industry and of a shorter work-week in other industries; for the fixing of definite minimums of earnings; for the partial elimination of child labor, and for the general raising of labor standards which offer also protection to the legitimate employers from the vicious competition of the chiselers and sweatshoppers.

Continued Support of NRA Pledged

"So when we offer this criticism of the changed attitude of the administrators of the NRA and of the failure of the Government to use the full force of the law against violators, we do it not without regret. For we realize that the NRA has been of tremendous help to our workers as well as to millions of others. And we shall continue to support it, together with other bodies of organized labor, against all attempts to destroy or further to weaken it."

New Wagner Bill's Plan For Choosing Collective Bargaining Representatives

Washington.—On the disputed question as to whom shall represent the employes in collective bargaining negotiations with employers, and the method to be followed in choosing such representatives, the new Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, says:

"Sec. 10 (a). In any dispute as to who are the representatives of employes, the board, if the dispute might burden or affect commerce or obstruct the free flow of commerce, may investigate such dispute and certify to the parties, in writing, the name or names of the individuals or labor organization that have been designated and authorized to represent employes. In any such investigation, the board shall hold an appropriate hearing, and the board shall be authorized to take a secret ballot of employes, or to utilize any other suitable method to ascertain by whom or by what labor organization they desire to be represented.

"The board shall decide whether eligibility to participate in a choice of representatives shall be determined on the basis of employer unit, craft unit, plant unit, or other appropriate unit. Each unit may be given representation in proportion to its membership. The board may determine that representatives agreed upon by the majority of employes in an appropriate unit shall represent the entire unit for the purpose of negotiating agreements concerning terms and conditions of employment. Provided, that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit an employer from discussing grievances with an employe or group of employes at any time.

"(b). In any dispute not of the character described in subsection (a), as to who are the representatives of employes, the board may offer its services to aid in determining who are such representatives."

WILLIAM B. WILSON BURIED

Blossburg, Pa.—Hugh L. Kerwin, director of the United States Conciliation Service, represented the Federal Department of Labor at the funeral here of William B. Wilson, first Secretary of Labor. The American Federation of Labor was represented by Secretary Frank Morrison.

The active pallbearers were Stanley J. Houdinski and Robert Sterling, representing the United Mine Workers of America, of which Mr. Wilson was national secretary-treasurer from 1900 to 1908; Dr. Daniel Brazda and Mark L. Tingley, representing the American Legion, and James Woodhouse and George Powell, representing the Masonic fraternity.

U. S. DENIED INJUNCTION IN WEIRTON STEEL CASE

Wilmington, Del.—Federal Judge John P. Nields in the United States District Court here denied the Federal Government's petition for a preliminary injunction to restrain the Weirton Steel Company from interfering or taking any part in the election of collective bargaining representatives by its employes.

The court denied the injunction on the ground that the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction law prohibits a Federal Judge from issuing an injunction in a labor dispute until after testimony is taken from the witnesses in open court. Counsel for both the Government and the Steel Company submitted testimony in the form of affidavits.

Because of his decision that he did not have authority to issue the injunction, the court gave no opinion on the constitutionality of the National Industrial Recovery Act, although arguments on that question were presented by both sides.

The decision defeats the plan for an immediate election of collective bargaining representatives at the Weirton plants under supervision of the National Labor Board.

Machinery Operated for Profit Threw Millions Out of Work, Filene Holds

Boston Merchant Says Men Who Controlled Industry Under Old Order Withheld Buying Power from Masses and Produced Wholesale Poverty in the Midst of Plenty.

Washington.—Direct responsibility for the millions of jobless was placed on those who own and control industry by Edward A. Filene, Boston merchant, in a radio address here in defense of the NRA and other Roosevelt policies.

Machines Make Breadlines

He charged that the policy of private ownership of machinery and the operation of industry for maximum profits coupled with the payment of wages far below the value of the wealth produced by the workers, brought on the depression and compelled the inauguration of the "New Deal." He said, in part:

"We built hundreds of great new industries. We installed marvelous new methods of production. We introduced scientific management until, in the end, we were able to produce enough to keep every American family living almost in luxury.

"But we didn't distribute this product not see any necessity for definite planning to make this possible; but while the masses were employed building up these great industries, they got regular wages, and they bought far more than the masses of any country had been able to buy before.

"When the machines, however, became so productive that the masses could buy only a fraction of their products, the machines had to be run on part time.

Jobless Appear and Poverty Stalks

"That meant that millions lost their jobs. And that meant that the masses had still less buying power than before, so less was bought and more machines were shut down and unemployment and poverty increased.

"Poverty, not because of any scarcity, but because we had learned how to produce so much. Poverty because we had built up a new economic order and were trying to operate it on the traditions of an old economic order."